

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were rejected in an Office Action dated March 17, 2003. The Specification and claims have been editorially amended to address translation errors and to better clarify the unique aspects of the present invention. Support for the amendments may be found in the "Detailed Description of the Invention." Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

I. Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121

Claims 1-15 were the subject of a restriction requirement, as it was stated in the Office Action that the inventions are distinct from one another. Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 9-15 overcomes this restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 9-15 in a divisional application.

II. The Claims Are Neither Disclosed Nor Suggested by the Cited

References

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 2006/0205306 in view of JP 2002-20916. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 2006/0205306 in view of JP 2002-20916 as applied to claims 1-7 as set forth above, and further in view of JP 6-61909A. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants believe that a brief description of the present invention is warranted. The present invention provides a laminated fabric with a structure in which a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable film with a temporary adhesive layer like a water-soluble adhesive layer interposed therebetween and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable film with a durable adhesive layer like a water-insoluble adhesive layer interposed therebetween. If a garment is constructed with the laminated fabric of the present invention, and is rinsed with water or subjected to another aftertreatment step to peel the face textile from the durable film, the face textile is readily peeled off. As a result, the texture of the face textile is enhanced and thus a resulting garment with a soft feeling, or a drape, may be obtained. Thus, it is possible to create desirable and unique laminates using a broader range of fabric textiles as a back textile.

USPN 2006/0205306 describes generally and claims an air-permeable composite fabric comprising: a first fabric layer; a second fabric layer; and an intermediate, air-permeable vapor barrier disposed between and bonded to said

first fabric layer and said second fabric layer; said intermediate, air-permeable barrier layer being selected from the group consisting of: a foamed adhesive in the form of a discontinuous film, an adhesive in the form of a continuous film mechanically altered by one of crushing and stretching, and a membrane disposed between and adhered to said first fabric layer and said second fabric layer with an adhesive and mechanically altered by stretching, said intermediate, air-permeable vapor barrier layer having a level of air permeability to allow air flow between said first fabric layer and said second fabric layer, and said intermediate, air-permeable vapor barrier layer having a variable level of water vapor diffusion resistance that substantially decreases as air speed of moving air impinging on said composite fabric increases.

Applicants submit that USPN 2006/0205306 does not disclose or suggest applicants' claimed combination of a laminated fabric with a structure in which a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable polymer film with a temporary adhesive layer interposed therebetween and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable polymer film with a durable adhesive layer of a water insoluble adhesive interposed therebetween. Particularly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in USPN 2006/0205306 of a structure wherein a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable polymer film with a temporary adhesive layer interposed therebetween and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable polymer film with a durable adhesive layer of a water insoluble adhesive.

It was further stated in the Office Action that "JP 2002-20916 A ... teaches a woven or nonwoven glove, which has an intermediate layer of a PTFE film as shown in [0006]. Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to have used a woven fabric as the textile layer in the invention of Rock et al., motivated by the reasoned expectation of using a fabric that provides uniform strength and is durable."

As with USPN 2006/0205306, JP 2002-20916 does not disclose or suggest a laminated fabric with a structure in which a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable polymer film with a temporary adhesive layer interposed therebetween and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable polymer film with a durable adhesive layer of a water insoluble adhesive interposed therebetween. Particularly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in USPN 2006/0205306 of a structure wherein a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable polymer film with a temporary adhesive layer interposed therebetween

and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable polymer film with a durable adhesive layer of a water insoluble adhesive.

Moreover, because neither USPN 2006/0205306 nor JP 2002-20916 discloses or suggest the presence of a temporary adhesive layer interposed between a face textile and the durable polymer film, this combination fails to disclose or suggest applicants' unique combination. Accordingly, applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 8, applicants repeat the statements as to the deficiencies of the cited 2006/0205306 and JP 2002-20916. With respect to the additional cited JP6-61909, applicants submit that this publication is directed to a laminated fabric for jeans wherein a plastic film is bonded to the back of a denim fabric via a water-insoluble adhesive layer and a lining is further bonded to the surface of the other surface of the plastic film via a water-insoluble adhesive layer.

In contrast to the teachings of JP 6-61909, the present invention is directed to applicants' unique laminate constructions comprising a laminated fabric with a structure in which a face textile is laminated on one side of a durable polymer film with a temporary adhesive layer interposed therebetween and a back textile is laminated on the other side of the durable polymer film with a durable adhesive layer of a water insoluble adhesive interposed therebetween. Accordingly, applicants submit that the teaching of JP 6-61909 actually teach away from and do not overcome the deficiencies of 2006/0205306 and JP 2002-20916 with respect to claim 8. Accordingly, applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 1-8 and 16-17 is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in form for allowance. If further questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative before issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Clean copy of amended paragraphs

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In other words, textiles made from fibers with a coarse denier, fabrics with a heavy basis weight, textured fabrics such as twill fabric with a checkered pattern, jacquard, or other more fashionable and decorative fabrics have a very rough surface; and when laminated fabric that has been prepared by using a water-soluble adhesive or other temporary adhesive to bond such fabric as a face textile with a durable film and a water-insoluble adhesive or other durable adhesive to bond the back textile with the durable film is cut and stitched to make a garment or other textile product, and the garment is then rinsed with water or subjected to another aftertreatment step in order to peel the film from the face textile, the hand of the face textile will not be compromised, and a garment or other textile product with a softer texture and drape can be obtained.

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Each laminated fabric was stitched as shown in Figure 2, and the stitched regions were sealed with commercial seam tape (Sun Chemical Corporation; T-2000). The taped portions were then subjected to water-resistance tests by being laundered once on the automatic cycle using the above-mentioned fully-automatic washing machine and tap water (detergent-free), and then hung up to dry. The water-resistance tests were conducted in accordance with JISL 1092 method A (low-water-pressure method).